

KOL HALEV
*CLEVELAND'S JEWISH
RECONSTRUCTIONIST
COMMUNITY*

YOUTH AND
FAMILY EDUCATION
HANDBOOK
2017-2018/5778

ANNUAL THEME:

**What Would a
MENSCH
Do?**



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Education Director: Robyn Novick
Youth & Family Education Committee Chair (temporary):
Bill Scher-Marcus

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Kol HaLev

WELCOME

Dear Kol HaLev Family,

Bruchim HaBayim! Welcome to Hagiga, Kol HaLev's education program, built upon an informal and intergenerational learning model. "Hagiga" means celebration, and that is what this program is. Hagiga celebrates learning, as it states in the program's mission and vision: "In recognition of the importance of life-long questioning and Jewish learning, our Hagiga program aims to create a range of joyous, exciting educational and social opportunities for our youth and their families."

Hagiga is for Kindergarten - grade 12. The program for Kindergarten through grade 8 meets on the first and third Shabbat mornings of each month from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. High School (grades 9-12) will have workshops throughout the year on Sundays (see page 11). Shabbat meetings will begin this year on **Saturday, September 16** and will continue through the month of May. Please note that there will not be Hagiga on April 7. There will be special sessions on Rosh HaShanah (September 21) and Yom Kippur (September 30). There will be many special programs throughout the year during Hagiga, details of which can be found on pages 12-14.

Hagiga is overseen by the Youth and Family Education Committee, which is also responsible for youth group, Family Tot Shabbat, family education and intergenerational programming. Youth education does not have its own committee as Kol HaLev's vision is to provide a holistic approach to education within our community. In doing so, it is clear that all educational experiences are important. The education program for youth and families has been created in a manner that allows for a symbiotic relationship between all the components, offering multiple avenues for education along each person's Jewish journey.

We request all parents of children in grades K-12 to fill out the Enrollment Form enclosed in this handbook. Registering your children in a timely manner helps the process greatly, as one element of cohort division is the group size. Nitzanim, preschoolers, need not register as Family-Tot Shabbat is a drop-in program.

We hope you find this handbook useful. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or Bill Scher-Marcus, the Youth and Family Education Committee Chair, with any questions or concerns. We look forward to engaging all of our children in Reconstructionist learning experiences and dialogue.

Kol Tuv, All my best, Robyn

MISSION, VISION AND GOALS OF THE HAGIGA PROGRAM

Mission Statement

The mission of the Congregation Kol HaLev's Educational Program is to provide a range of joyous, exciting educational and social opportunities for all members of Kol HaLev, especially the congregation's youth and their families. The opportunities will foster a desire to become committed Reconstructionist Jews who identify with Kol HaLev, the Cleveland Jewish Community, the American Jewish Community and *k'lal yisrael* (The Jewish People). The program will provide participants with a strong Jewish knowledge base and recognition of the importance of life-long questioning and Jewish learning.

Vision Statement

This educational program will be an informal, intergenerational education model where there is an inherent learning partnership between the teacher, the learner and the subject matter. The students will be brought into the learning process as active, valued participants. The subject matter will be linked to the real life situations of the learners. The learning spaces will be flexible and there will be cooperative learning groups engaging in experiential activities which include drama, art, music, dance, games, creative writing, role-playing and activities outside the walls of the classroom. Learning will involve families and at times other members of the Kol HaLev community. Madrichim shall be volunteers, if possible, trained and supervised by our director of education. Where possible, this program will be coordinated with the educational products/efforts of JRF, Noar Hadash, and Camp JRF. We envision that Kol HaLev will attempt to engage our youth from preschool through the college years.

Overarching Goals

- Developing a positive Jewish and Reconstructionist identity
- Developing a sense of community
- Viewing Jewish learning as a life-long process
- Developing an understanding of the Jewish Reconstructionist approach to Jewish living

Reconstructionist Educational Values

The Values of Spiritual Peoplehood will be integrated with the overarching goals of the program. These values will be part of the subject matter and the experiences, and of all units of learning.

They are:

Wisdom *Hohmah*

Creativity *Hiddur Mitzvah*

Spirituality *Kedusha*

Peoplehood *Tziyonut*

Repairing the World *Tikkun Olam*

Character *Dereh Eretz*

Hebrew and Prayer Exploration

Shabbat Statement

Developed and approved by Hagiga participants May 21, 2011

Shabbat is a special time that should be recognized as different from the rest of the week. We recognize that there are multiple avenues to celebrate Shabbat and everyone should have the opportunity to celebrate in a way that is comfortable. Therefore, any activity which is done at Hagiga should reflect the spirit of Shabbat and be embraced, as long as it is not an obstacle for another's Shabbat observance. We must take steps to be an open community where everyone can share their feelings and be respectful that we each take our own path, but be aware to not take away from our community Shabbat celebration.

ENROLLMENT & PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

A Hagiga Enrollment Form is enclosed within this handbook. Our year will begin on Saturday, **September 16th at 10:30 am at The Ratner School**. The Youth and Family Education Committee has been debating the most effective strategies for continuity within the Hagiga program. They have determined that **learners should participate in the Saturday morning Hagiga program at a minimum 75% attendance, which is 12 sessions annually**. Please make every effort to attend Hagiga on a regular basis. Please complete the Enrollment Form, sign, and return it to the office so we can best prepare. Learners need not be registered for Hagiga to participate in all-community, intergenerational or youth programs.

SHABBAT PRINCIPLES

The Kol HaLev community made a conscious choice to hold Hagiga on Shabbat. While we have lessons on Shabbat, the community has taken steps to ensure that Shabbat is a holy day and is distinguished from the other days of the week, which is stated in the following principles:

1. Many of our members are committed to having an experience of Shabbat that is special, holy, sacred, joyous and is differentiated from the rest of the week. Others wish to have an experience of Shabbat which while differentiating it from the rest of the week, is focused on establishing a connection of community with other members of Kol HaLev and more broadly with the Jewish people. As an overall congregation, we're committed to these experiences, and to creating a space and structure which makes it easy for other people to share these experiences of Shabbat.
2. Offering a rich, expressive and expansive educational experience is critically important for us. It's also essential, given that we've chosen Shabbat as the day in which we're going to offer this educational experience, that the educational program is planned with the *kavannah* of promoting and creating access to these experiences of Shabbat to which we're personally and communally committed. This holds regardless of the form and structure the educational program and activities take.
3. We know and understand each one of our members is on an ever evolving pathway in his or her personal Jewish journey, and that a good part of this pathway is the personalization of what being a Jew is for each individual. In this sense, each one of us is simultaneously a creator, interpreter and transmitter of Judaism. We also understand there is a natural tension and balance point constantly being discovered for each individual on this evolving pathway between our collective past, present and future as individuals, a community and a people. It is our heartfelt belief the struggle with this tension, and the natural actions which occur as a result of this struggle, represent an opportunity for the ordinary to reveal the extraordinary, the extraordinary to reveal the ordinary and thus for the individual and community to experience growth, learning and development. Our commitment is that whatever structure and format the educational programming takes, it incorporates this struggle and as a result, encompasses this inherent opportunity for growth, development and learning.

4. Because our members are on different and evolving pathways on their own Jewish journeys, it is critical that each of us brings to our relationship with the other a profound respect for the unique Jewish journey of each individual. This then can lead to an understanding of the range of ways in which each person chooses to create and have a meaningful experience of Shabbat. Our intention is that the educational programming incorporates our community commitments to experience the power, sacredness and holiness of Shabbat, the experience of Shabbat as being distinct from the rest of the week, and the experience of Shabbat as a vehicle to create community within Kol HaLev and more broadly the Jewish people. And just as each member of Kol HaLev is on a different and evolving pathway on their own Jewish journey, the form and structure of our educational programming should acknowledge the reality of these different pathways and the different “routes in” which create these experiences.
5. We also understand the educational process itself is one that leverages different modalities of teaching and of learning, and that by choosing to have our educational programming on Shabbat, we potentially could place ourselves inside a structure which would limit certain modalities of learning and teaching to be explored. While we are not committed to throwing caution to the wind and opening up the total exploration of these different modalities of teaching and learning, we equally are not committed to the total restriction of these modalities. Therefore, we’re committed that our educational programming embark on a mindful exploration of these varied modalities, and that there are processes put in place which both evaluate and adjust the effectiveness of the tools and methodologies deployed in this intentional, mindful and careful exploration.
6. We understand that in order for these principles to tangibly exist in the structure and format of our educational programming, it will require creativity, out-of-the-box thinking, and for both the planning of the programming and the programming itself to be undertaken and implemented with both tremendous *kavannah* and *ruach*. It is our intention these principles are used as both a source and influence for our educational programming, sparking individual and collective *ruach* and sharpening individual and collective *kavanah*.

Approved by the Board in June 2005. Posted July 29, 2005



B'NAI MITZVAH PROGRAM



Every candidate for Bar or Bat Mitzvah in the Kol HaLev community must satisfy the following three requirements:

- ◆ *Participating in the Kol HaLev community*
- ◆ *Receiving a foundation in Judaic and Hebrew education*
- ◆ *Participating in activities that develop one's Reconstructionist identity*

Families have multiple options to fulfill these requirements. For families with children in grades 4-6, a copy of the Policy for Celebrating Bar/Bat Mitzvah will be sent separately to your home. If you have a child outside of grades 4-6 or would like another copy, the Policy can be found on the Kol HaLev website, www.kolhalev.net or you can request a copy from the office. The Annual Checklist for Bar/Bat Mitzvah in Kol HaLev has been enclosed in this handbook. This checklist notes the various options to assist families in planning their child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation. Please review these materials and complete the Checklist for all children in grades 4-6 and return it to the Kol HaLev office. Families enrolled in Rabbi Steve's B'nai Mitzvah Family Cohort will receive a Bar/Bat Mitzvah Handbook, which has more in depth information about the B'nai Mitzvah process.

Our requirements for Bar/Bat Mitzvah state that one must participate in Judaic, Reconstructionist, AND Hebrew education programs. Hagiga is meant to satisfy the Judaic and Reconstructionist requirements. For day school students, the Hebrew requirement is clearly satisfied by day school education. For those not in day school, Kol HaLev endorses private tutoring or enrollment in the Kol HaLev T'filah/Hebrew program, Nesiya. For a list of the schools and programs that Kol HaLev endorses, please contact Robyn. If your child is in grades 3-6 and does not attend day school, please enroll your child in Hebrew for the coming year. If you would like help determining the best option for your family, please contact Robyn. There are a great many wonderful choices for Hebrew education available to the youth of Kol HaLev - an option for every learning style and personality.

NESIYA

The Nesiya program is generously funded by the Jewish Fund for the Future of the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland. Nesiya is a *T'filah* (prayer)/Hebrew program that is open to members in grades 3-7. "Nesiya" means journey and focuses on the *t'filah* (prayer) experience, both in decoding (recognizing and sounding the aleph-bet and vowels), as well as the spiritual and intellectual elements of *t'filah*. The lessons are a combination of *hevruta* (small group) learning, project based learning, individual areas of concentration, and technology. The goal is that a graduate of this program will be able to comfortably participate in a Kol HaLev worship service and find it to be a meaningful experience.

There are four levels to the Nesiya program - *aleph, bet, gimel and dalet*, based on the journey of the individual learner. Each level will meet once a week for two hours. To determine the best fit for each student, there will be a short assessment at the beginning of the year. The program meets on Sunday mornings from 10 am to 12 noon.

As Nesiya meets for a limited amount of time, there is an expectation that families will participate in reinforcement activities. One activity is Chaverim B'telefon (Friends on the phone). Each student will be paired with a member of the community who they will connect with via a technological means (telephone, Skype, FaceTime, etc.) or in person weekly. The students and their partners will be provided with materials, and the families will be responsible for the partners connecting.



Kol HaLev does not require attendance at Nesiya and recognizes that there are many different learning needs and styles. If the Nesiya program does not meet your family's needs, there are several options available. Kol HaLev endorses congregational, private groups and individual learning of Hebrew. If you would like a list of congregations, tutors and tutoring groups in the area, please contact Robyn.

HAGIGA PROGRAM & SCHEDULE

Hagiga is a non-traditional, informal learning program for all children at Kol HaLev. The program for Kindergarten-grade 8 meets on the first and third Shabbat mornings of each month from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm. The high school program will meet on Sunday afternoons/evenings. This year, the curriculum is formed around our theme, What Would a Mensch Do? where we will glean “menschcraft” from our tradition. We will be exploring the theme through a variety of means.

Shabbat morning begins together as a community at 10:30 am in the main service for *Birchot Hashachar* (Morning Blessings), with our families. At the conclusion of this part of the service, around 10:45 am, children will join their respective age groups for Hagiga programming. Toward the end of the morning, the Bonim and Magshimim will gather together for *Z'man Ruach*, Spirit Time, a time for creative programming, such as singing, dancing, cooking, games and art in a camp-like atmosphere.



This year our high schoolers have a new program, Chalutzim Chai, which will be a series of workshops on a variety of topics. Workshops will take place at members' homes on Sunday afternoon/evenings depending on the availability of the participants. Participant input is highly encouraged.

For the preschool children and younger, there is Family Tot Shabbat from 10:45-11:15 am. This is a family program led by Ben Seligman and Andy Oster and children are to be accompanied by their parents. There is also *Chaverim B'Yachad*, Friends Together, (babysitting) during Shabbat morning services (10:30 am–12:30 pm), outside of Family Tot Shabbat times.

One goal of Hagiga is to create a community. In an effort to accomplish this goal, Hagiga is for enrolled children only. However, if a member family would like their child to visit Hagiga to assist in their decision making process, they are welcome to do so. Please let Robyn know of your visitation plan, as it is important that we are aware of visitors to properly plan for the lesson, as well as for safety reasons.

Age groups: ***Chalutzim*★Pioneers** (Grades 9-12)
***Magshimim*★Achievers** (Grades 6-8)
***Bonim*★Builders** (Grades 3-5)
***Zorim*★Planters** (Kindergarten-Grade 2)

Shabbat Morning Schedule:

10:30-10:45 Community Shabbat Service
10:45-11:45 Program
11:45-11:55 Snack
11:55-12:25 *Z'man Ruach*, Spirit Time/Service
12:25-12:30 Community Shabbat Service

***Nitzanim*★Buds** (Preschool & under accompanied by parents)

10:45-11:15 Family Tot Shabbat

***Chaverim B'Yachad*★Friends Together** (Babysitting)

Chaverim B'Yachad/Babysitting is available from 10:30 am-12:30 pm for all children not in Hagiga or the main service. All visitors to Kol HaLev are welcome to utilize the babysitting services.



COMMUNICATIONS

Communication between parents, the director, and the madrichim (volunteer teacher-leaders) is an important part of the success of Hagiga. The following represent the many opportunities for communication within our education community.

- ◆ Parents receive emails before each session highlighting the material.
- ◆ Hagiga Happenings is a monthly column about Youth and Family Education, which can be found in the Kol HaLev newsletter.
- ◆ There is an update during announcements at Shabbat services each week Hagiga is in session.
- ◆ Feel free to contact Bill Scher-Marcus, (temporary) Chair of the Youth and Family Education committee, scher.marcus@gmail.com; 216-212-6652.
- ◆ Do not hesitate to contact Robyn Novick, robyn@kolhalev.net or (216) 320-1498.

2017-2018/5778 HAGIGA CALENDAR

All sessions will take place on
Saturday mornings from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

- Session 1: September 16 - Spirit of Clay
- Session 2: October 7
- Session 3: October 21
- Session 4: November 4
- Session 5: November 18
- Session 6: December 2
- Session 7: December 16
- Session 8: January 6
- Session 9: January 20
- Session 10: February 3
- Session 11: February 17
- Session 12: March 3
- Session 13: March 17
- Session 14: April 21
- Session 15: May 5 - Senior Siyyum
- Session 16: May 19 - Madrichim Appreciation

*Please note there will NOT be Hagiga on April 7

**Bonim & Magshimim Retreat at Common Ground on Sunday, April 8



TEEN PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

CHALUTZIM CHAI

Chalutzim Chai is a new teen educational program at Kol HaLev, open to all teens in grades 9-12. There will be 4 seminars throughout the year which will take place on Sunday afternoon/evenings, depending on the time availability of the participants. All meetings will include a light meal. The seminars will be *Drugs, Sex, Rock & Roll and Comic Books*. Thanks to a generous grant from the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland, this program is FREE. We have a rock star line up of educators who will be teaching! If you have any questions, please contact Robyn.



NO'AR HADASH

No'ar Hadash, New Youth, the Youth Group for 8th - 12th graders, promotes and fosters creative, innovative and fun Jewish youth programming from a uniquely Reconstructionist perspective. In past years, activities have included volunteering at local agencies, attending cultural events, participating in recreational activities, and social events. Highlights from this past year include Whirlyball, Trapped! Escape Room, Cedar Point, Superelectric Pinball, an Israeli dinner and movie, volunteering at the Cleveland Food Bank, serving meals at St. Herman's House of Hospitality, and working with other youth groups at local agencies at this year's J-Serve (International Day of Jewish Youth Service). Looking forward to another year full of fun and exciting activities!

SPECIAL PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

B'NAI MITZVAH

Evan Brodsky Bar Mitzvah Ceremony - September 2, 2017

Oliver Posner & Wyatt Sklarin B'nai Mitzvah Ceremony - May 26, 2018

Mira Whitaker-Kanner Bat Mitzvah Ceremony - June 30, 2018



SOCIAL PROGRAMMING

This year there will be social events for each cohort organized by members of the community. Details will be distributed throughout the year. If you have any questions or are interested in organizing an event, please contact Robyn and she will get you in touch with the appropriate person.



INTERGENERATIONAL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

This year we will have six intergenerational holiday programs.



Sunday, September 10

-Rosh HaShanah

Apple Picking

Saturday, October 7

-Sukkot

Tuesday, December 12

-Hanukah

Tuesday, January 30

-Tu B'Shevat

Wednesday, February 28

-Purim

Wednesday, May 2

-Lag B'Omer

TIKKUN OLAM THROUGH ART

We are so lucky to have our very own Tamar Shapira Koren leading us in an exploration of *tikkun olam*, repairing the world, through art! Tamar is a talented educator with expertise in both Judaics and art, which she masterfully will combine for this educational experience. She will be leading the Bonim (grades 3-5) in a 3 week project where they will delve into Jewish texts and discover deeper meanings of how to create a more beautiful world through tikkun olam. The study will lead into an art project which shares individual understanding and expression of tikkun olam and work on our menschcraft skills.

COUNT ME IN

Count Me In is a program for all Jewish 6th graders in the Cleveland area. 13 different communities (Reform, Conservative, and Reconstructionist) will come together for a wonderful day of learning, as well as getting to know each other. As this program is for those who are in the process of becoming a bar/bat mitzvah, the day will be centered upon learning about what it means to be counted as a member of the community. The community program will take place on **Sunday, November 5** from 9:30 am-12:00 pm. Last year there were about 200 6th graders that participated! There is a prep session, which will take place the week before at a mutually agreed upon time. There will be a special parallel parent session during the November 5 program. More details will be provided closer to the event. If you have any questions, please contact Robyn.



Common Ground
The Cindy Nord Center for Renewal

BONIM & MAGSHIMIM RETREAT

On **Sunday, April 8, 2018** the Bonim (grades 3-5) and Magshimim (grades 6-8) will board a bus for the Common Ground Center in Oberlin. For more than 20 years, Common Ground has been providing innovative programs that nurture the body, challenge the mind, and renew the spirit. We will spend the day learning about each other and from each other while exploring the low and high ropes courses. It will be a very fun and rewarding day!

THEME INSPIRED SPECIAL PROJECTS

This year we are again the grateful recipients of generous enrichment funding from the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland. Inspired by our What Would A Mensch Do? theme, and in accordance with the vision of the Hagiga program, we will be doing several special projects this year. These projects include a project with Spirit of Clay, Tiffany Schlain's work on the Science of Character, tzedakah projects, special guests and participating in Tikkun Olam projects. Each project will have an educational component, as well as a creative aspect.



PHILOSOPHICAL INQUIRY

****Parents and 5th-7th graders are invited for sneak peak on Saturday, September 16th at 1 pm in the art room****

Benjamin Barnett will be leading a community of learning applying principles of Philosophical Inquiry (also called Philosophy for Children) to Jewish texts. Philosophical Inquiry engages participants with questions of meaning arising from the core texts of our tradition, connecting Jewish learning and the development of personal Jewish identity. Kids explore philosophy as a group collaboration in which they unpack questions of meaning together in order to make deeper sense of their experiences of the world. Participants are encouraged to raise meaningful and nuanced questions that relate directly to their own lives.

This optional enrichment program is for children in the grades 5-7. Seventh graders in Rabbi Steve's B'nai Mitzvah cohort will find this group to be a great opportunity to deepen their engagement with Torah texts and to develop peer mentoring relationships with younger individuals in the group.

Lessons convene promptly at 9:30am in the art room on every Hagiga Shabbat; please arrive at 9:15am to enjoy a light nosh before lessons begin. Ongoing participation is requested. For more information, contact Benjamin, shmedia@aol.com or 216-291-4313.

DERECH ERETZ: GUIDELINES TO LIVE BY

At Kol HaLev, *kavod*, respect and *kehillah*, community, are two of our most important values. According to Jewish tradition, we are all created *b'tzelem elohim*, in God's image; therefore, the way in which we treat each other is central. Our goal is for all of the learning community to behave with *derech erez*, common decency, as well as acceptance and inclusivity. Please note, while these overarching guidelines apply to everyone at Hagiga, individual groups will affirm their own guidelines which will direct their experience. Let us be mindful of the following guidelines as we learn and pray together:

1. We are respectful to each other.
2. We respect our environment and the property in it.
3. We cooperate with our fellow students and madrichim.
4. Words can hurt and words can heal; we are careful to use appropriate language.
5. We speak kindly to each other and don't bother our neighbors.
6. We participate in and contribute positively to the learning and community atmosphere.
7. We strive to have a good time and help others have a good time also.
8. We each strive to be a *mensch* (a good person).



Haggigat Limmud, February 4, 2017



Youth & Family Memories 2016-2017/5777





Kol HaLev

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